



PRESS RELEASE

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Lake County Library System Presents The Festival of Reading

The Lake County Library System is presenting the Festival of Reading, a week long celebration of the power of books. The mission is to offer residents a first class literary arts experience and to showcase the services of the Lake County Library System and the programs and collections of the individual libraries. 12 Member and Branch libraries are hosting authors, musicians, poets, and storytellers to delight audiences with their readings and performances. The events will be held National Library Week, April 17 - 24, 2004.

The Festival of Reading is offering many unique events. Award winning author Susan Carol McCarthy, will be the featured speaker at a Literary Luncheon and Book Talk. Her first novel, *Lay That Trumpet In Our Hands*, was inspired by true events involving the Ku Klux Klan, the FBI and others in 1950s Florida. It received numerous awards including the 2003 Chautauqua South Fiction Award for outstanding Florida fiction. Her second novel, *True Fires*, (A Bantam Books Hardcover) published January 2004, is inspired by true events in Lake County.

The only person wackier and perhaps more off the wall than psycho killer Serge Storms is his creator, Tim Dorsey, who will be appearing at the Leesburg Public Library. His works include *Florida Roadkill*, *Hammerhead Ranch Motel*, *Orange Crush*, *Triggerfish Twist* and *The Stingray Shuffle* and his latest *Cadillac Beach*. This special appearance is sponsored by *HarperCollins Publishers*.

Other remarkable authors and their works include K. T. Frankovich, *Where Heavens Meet*; Steve Glassman, *On The Trail of The Maya Explorer*; "Pat" Riccobono, *Lost Legend of the Leprechauns*; Lenn Millbower, *Training with a Beat*; Marilyn Evans, *Food for Thought*; Ted Stevens, *Rose Under the Sun, a Guide to Growing Roses in Florida*; LaVerne Stevens, *Pathways of Life in Poetry*; Michael Rebel, *Animal Angels*; Susanna Wermuth, *I've Tried It All! Now What?!*; Tara Harrington, *Learn from the Pros*; and so much more. Speakers from the Florida Humanities Council, Florida's Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs include Storyteller and balladeer, Judy Gail, Cuban American artist Maria Elena Castagliola and mystery reviewer and writer Calvin Branche.

There will be opportunities to celebrate the joys of reading whether a beginning or a lifelong reader.